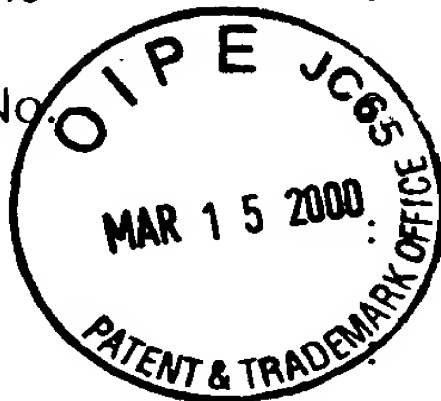


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Suppl. Prior  
PATENT  
Docket No. 77792/23  
Art  
Coper  
3-21-00

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventors : K. SATO et al.  
Serial No. 08/750,641  
Filed December 16, 1996  
For SCHEDULE SETTING AND PROCESSING  
Group Art Unit : 2316  
Examiner : O. Hernandez



ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER  
FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)**

Sir:

In conformance with Applicants' duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 (a) and § 1.97(c), the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449 are hereby brought to the Examiner's attention.

In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of the references are submitted herewith.

**Statement of Relevancy**

The references were cited in an Office Action dated January 24, 2000 issued for the corresponding Canadian Patent application.

**Certification Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1)**

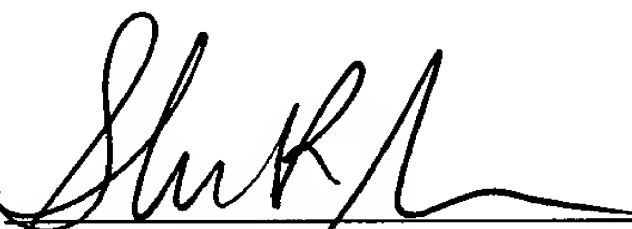
Applicants state that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

This information disclosure statement is being submitted before the mailing date of a final Office Action and therefore no additional fee or certification is believed necessary.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees required in connection with this communication to the Deposit Account of Kenyon & Kenyon, Deposit Account Number 11-0060. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 15, 2000

By:   
Sterlon R. Mason  
(Reg. No. 41,179)

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